

d.) **Amendments to the Claims.**

1. (currently amended) A clasp comprising:

a hook portion[[],];

a grip portion adjacent to the hook portion; and

an attachment portion, wherein the attachment portion and the grip portion are interconnected;

wherein the hook portion comprising includes a first section, a second section and a third section, wherein the first section is connected to and perpendicular with the second section[[],] and the second section is connected to and perpendicular with the third section, wherein the clasp comprises a shaped rod.

2. (original) The clasp of claim 1, further comprising a cord attached at one terminus of said cord to the cord attachment portion.

3. (original) The clasp of claim 2, further comprising a second clasp attached to another terminus of said cord.

4. (original) The clasp of claim 2, wherein the cord is stretchable.

5. (original) The clasp of claim 2, wherein the cord is a bungee cord.

6. (original) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the first section is longer than the second section.

7. (original) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the second section is longer than the third section.

8. (previously presented) The clasp of claim 1 wherein said first, second and third sections are in the same two-dimensional plane.

9. (currently amended) The clasp of claim 1 wherein at least two of said first, second and third sections are in parallel two-dimensional planes.

10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended) The clasp of claim [[10]] 42, wherein the shaped rod is rounded.

12. (original) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the clasp is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a metal alloy, aluminum, brass, hardened plastic, steel, titanium, and combinations thereof.

13. (original) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the clasp is comprised of steel.

14. (original) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the clasp is comprised of aluminum.

15. (original) The clasp of claim 1, wherein a pinch section separates the grip portion from the attachment portion.

16. (previously presented) The clasp of claim 15, wherein the pinch section prevents a cord attached to the attachment portion from entering the grip portion.

17. (currently amended) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the first section is attached to ~~both the hook portion and~~ the grip portion.

18. (original) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the clasp secures equipment to the vehicle.

19. (previously presented) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the clasp attaches to a rack of a vehicle and is capable of securing equipment to the vehicle.

20. (original) The clasp of claim 19, wherein the equipment comprises a ladder.

21. (currently amended) A clasp comprising a hook portion, a grip portion and an attachment portion, wherein the attachment portion and the grip portion are interconnected, the hook portion comprising a first straight section, a second straight section and a third straight section, wherein

the first straight section is connected to and angled with the second section straight section, the second straight section connected to and angled with the third section.

22. (currently amended) A device comprising a pair of clasps and a flexible cord connecting the pair of clasps, each clasp comprises a hook portion, a grip portion, a cord attachment portion, wherein the attachment portion and the grip portion are interconnected, and a pinch section formed from a shaped rounded rod, wherein the pinch section prevents the flexible cord from entering the grip portion, and wherein the hook portion comprises a first section, a second section and a third section.

23. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the hook portion of each clasp of said pair of clasps has a first section, a second section and a third section.

24. (previously presented) The device of claim 23, wherein the first section is connected to the second section and perpendicular to the second section, the second section is attached to the third section and perpendicular to the third section, and all sections are configured in the same two-dimensional plane.

25. (currently amended) The device of claim 22, wherein the first section is attached to ~~both the hook portion and the grip portion~~.

26. (original) The device of claim 22, wherein the cord is a bungee cord.

27. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the shaped rounded rod of each clasp is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of a metal alloy, aluminum, brass, hardened plastic, steel, titanium, and combinations thereof.

28. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the shaped rounded rod of each clasp is comprised of steel.

29. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the shaped rounded rod of each clasp is comprised of aluminum.

30. (original) The device of claim 22, wherein the device secures equipment to a vehicle.

31. (original) The device of claim 22, wherein the device attaches to a rack on the vehicle.

32. (previously presented) The device of claim 30, wherein the equipment comprises a ladder.

33. – 38. (canceled).

39. (original) A securing device comprising a plurality of flexible cords having two ends, wherein one end of each cord is connected to one or more other cords at a single position and wherein the other ends of the cords are connected to the clasp of claim 1.

40. (original) The securing device of claim 39, wherein the single position comprises a ring.

41. (original) The securing device of claim 39, wherein the single position comprises a knot.

42. (currently amended) A clasp comprising a hook portion, a grip portion and an attachment portion, wherein the attachment portion and the grip portion are interconnected, the hook portion comprising a first section, a second section and a third section, wherein the first section is connected to and at an angle with the second section, the second section connected to and at an angle with the third section.

43. (new) The clasp of claim 1, wherein the clasp is formed from a single shaped rod.